

Move to increase investment potential

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With a view to improving infrastructure and other facilities for increasing investment potential here, an international commercial centre will be developed in the port city.

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has taken the initiative to develop the centre titled "Chittagong International Exposition Centre (CIEC)" at an approximate cost of Tk 250 crore.

Under the guidelines of Chittagong Metropolitan Master Plan 1995 and Detailed Area Plan 2008 to boost tourism as well as draw investment in the port city, CDA has already selected a site of 216 acres of land near Patenga Sea Beach Road near Shah Amanat International Airport.

The site is to the west of the 150-foot wide Patenga Sea Beach Road near Shah Amanat International Airport.

A conceptual sketch has already been prepared for the centre to be constructed with the financial assistance of China, said

the sources in CDA.

Replying to a memo from the foreign ministry, CDA proposed CIEC along with three other projects on March 16 to be raised in the "9th Annual Bilateral Consultation between Bangladesh and China" likely to be held in June or July, they said.

The three projects include

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a flyover from the airport to the Kalurghat industrial area; a new township along the Karnaphuli River like Pudong Commercial City in Shanghai and providing training facilities to CDA planners, architects and engineers to improve human resources to face urban problem.

CDA emphasised on the proposed projects to achieve the metropolitan develop-

ment goal as well as establishment of human resources for new "Digital Bangladesh".

The components envisaged to be included in the Chittagong International Exposition Centre are exhibition centre, conference hall, banquet hall, amphitheatre, theatre hall, history museum, national heritage

world in air, land and sea routes Chittagong is considered as the commercial capital of Bangladesh.

Chittagong is also blessed with resources and potential tourism. As such planned development projects and more installations of international standard are required to be developed here, he said.

Justifying the development of new township they said there is an ample space along the river that can be turned into valuable land for commercial, tourism and living like Pudong along the river Huangpu. With the help of China same city concept can be replicated along the river Karnaphuli, they said.

Underlining the need for training in urban sector they said a city can't develop without trained and expert professionals in the urban sector.

In this regard, they said urban professionals like architects, engineers and town planners may be allowed to participate in training programmes in China Planning Institute for acquiring modern knowledge on urban development.

"If infrastructure and investment potential are developed, Chittagong can play an important role in bringing about social and economic development in the country," he added.

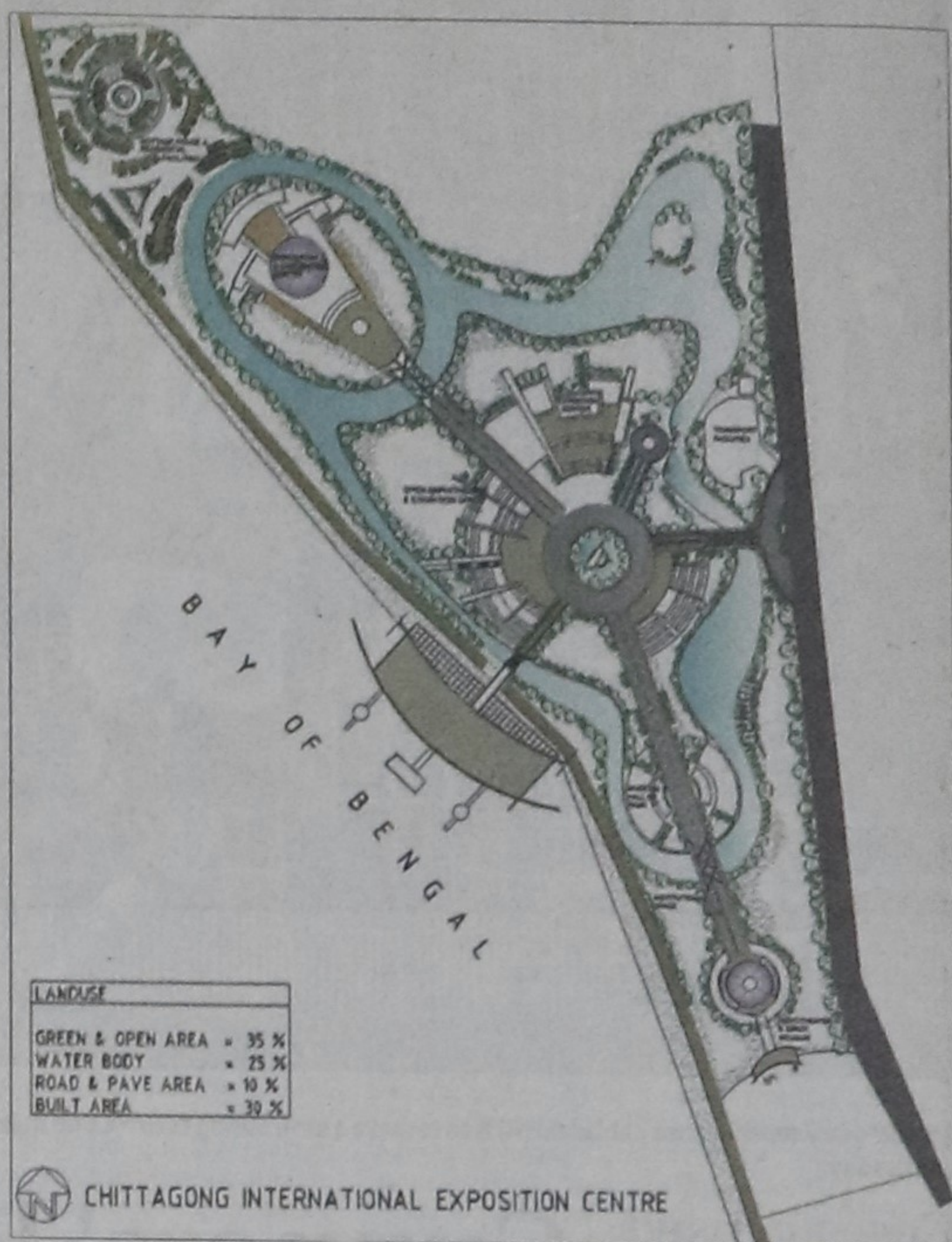
He also emphasised on developing flyover, new township along the Karnaphuli river and training in urban sector.

Sources in CDA said a flyover was needed to estab-

and culture centre, information and media broadcasting centre, commercial and international institution, public library and cruising facilities and tourism activities.

"This type of centre is available in Pudong Commercial City in Shanghai," said CDA Chairman Shah Muhammad Akhteruddin.

Linked with the outside



theweekthatwas



Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian speaks at the annual budget session of the club on Saturday.

Ctg Press Club budget session held

The annual budget session for 2009-2010 year of Chittagong Press Club was held at the club auditorium on Saturday.

Club President Abu Sufian presided over the session while Treasurer Nowsher Ali Khan presented the budget.

Before presenting the budget proposal, members of the club stood in silence for one minute in memory of the army officers and others killed during the BDR mutiny.

Permanent members M Nasirul Haque, Moinuddin Kaderi Shawkat, Moazzemul Haque, Shahidul Islam Bachchu, Nirmal Chandra Das, Jasim Chowdhury Sabuj, Swapan Mallick, Saifuddin Mohammad Khaled, Mohammad Faruk, Jishu Roy Chowdhury and Biswjit Barua took part in the discussion on the budget.

Later, club president approved the budget while the members suggested to take initiative to improve professional quality of the members and develop the club as well.

'Make study enjoyable'

Speakers emphasised on teaching the children amidst enjoyable environment in the schools to develop creativity and morality in them.

They were addressing the annual cultural function of the Coordinated Education-Culture Programme run by Fulki at the Bangladesh Bank Colony High School on Thursday.

Headmaster Nasir Uddin Ahmed, poet Omar Kaiser and Coordinator of the Programme Rashed Hasan spoke among others.

Speakers urged all to spread the programme among different schools at national level.

Later a cultural programme was held participated by the

students of class VI, VII and VIII.

The programme began through a Tagore song 'Jagat Jure Udar Sure'.

Students performed group recitation of three poems including 'Rajkahini' of Shamsur Rahman, 'Durmar' of Sukanta Bhattacharjee and 'Jonmohumi' of Rabindranath Tagore.

A painting exhibition was also held at the programme displaying paintings of the students.

Latif new BFRI director

Mohammad Abdul Latif took over the office of Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) here on Thursday.

He replaced Dr Mohammad Ashraf Haque.

Latif joined the BFRI as a senior research officer in 1978 and promoted as divisional officer in 1994. Later, he worked as the chief research officer of the forest resources and forest

management department.

He also worked as the forest specialist at the forest department and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations for different projects.

Caritas annual fair held

A daylong annual fair organised by Caritas, a non-government organisation, was held on the Rangunia Public Hall Field premises on Thursday.

Caritas organised the fair under its natural resources management project with a view to creating awareness about environment degradation and protection.

Rangunia Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sardar Keramat Ali was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony chaired by the organisation Chittagong Regional Director James Gomez.

The organisation Development Director Francis Atul Talukdar, Regional Women Development Officer Razia

Sultana, Upazila Chairman Mohammad Nurul Amin, Agriculture Officer Akram Uddin and Rangunia Press Club President Mohammad Ilias also attended the fair.

The fair included different activities of natural resources management and gender development projects, film and documentary on agriculture technology, exhibition of environment-friendly oven and cultural programme.

Reception to Prof Mansurul Karim

Ekushey Padak (medal) winner Prof Mansurul Karim of Chittagong University (CU) Fine Arts Department was accorded a reception at Arts Faculty on Sunday.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Abu Yusuf was the chief guest at the ceremony while the Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof D Mohammad Alauddin and Bengali Department Prof Dr Muhammad Shamsul Alam were the special guests.

Prof Abu Yusuf in his speech said through the achievement Prof Mansurul not only made himself proud of but also honoured all members of the university family.

He said the artist worked hard for long time with patience, confidence and sincerity that brought the success for him.

Arts Faculty Dean Prof Kazi Mostain Billah presided over the ceremony while Fine Arts Department Prof Abul Mansur spoke.



Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) transports garbage on an open truck at daytime, violating its own rules. The photo was taken from Dampara Road on Monday.

Ctg fire fighters unable to douse flames beyond sixth floor

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Fire fighters in the port city would have nothing to do but to watch helplessly in case of any incident of fire beyond sixth floor at a high-rise building due to lack of modern equipment and adequate human resources.

The need for modernising the Fire Service and Civil Defence Department and procurement of equipment was strongly felt again after the devastating fire at the country's largest shopping complex of Bashundhara City in the capital on March 13.

The department with its present equipment is capable of fighting fire up to sixth floor when the number of skyscrapers above that height has sprung in the port city with development sector blooms in the recent years, said the sources at the divisional headquarters of the department at Agrabad.

The department has no sufficient number of equipment like turntable ladder, snorkel, foam-tender, lighting unit, emergency tender, fire proof uniform, rescue rope required for fire fighting and rescue operation, they said.

It has only one snorkel at its Agrabad station when it needs at least three such equipment in the city alone. Other equipment that the department possesses are water tender, special water tender, emergency tender and breakdown van.

There is no turntable ladder, which is vital for carrying out rescue operation in the highrise buildings, for the department, said Deputy Assistant Director Subhash Chandra Debnath.

The only emergency tender, a vehicle equipped with around 350 rescue equipment, was procured in Pakistan era for the Fire Service Headquarters, said Akhteruzzaman, senior station officer of Agrabad Fire Station.

Around 300 of the rescue equipment of the emergency tender have lost dura-

bility 10 to 12 years ago, he added.

Besides, the life-guns (equipment used for throwing floating ropes to rescue people caught up in strong current or being carried away by water) procured during the Pakistan period have lost longevity long before, said the fire fighters.

There are 39 fire stations in Chittagong division. Of them, 14 are A-grade stations, 22 are B-grade and three are C-grade, sources said.

Some 596 fire fighters are working in the fire stations against 698 posts.

Deputy Director Md Ruhul Amin said with the snorkel the department at present is able to fight fire up to seventh floor of a building.

But the snorkel cannot be used properly for narrow roads, hanging electric wires and densely constructed buildings, he said.

"In some incidents the snorkel could not be used as it could not move for lack of enough space," he said.

Amin said he has sent a letter to the head office on Sunday for a turntable ladder that would be helpful to douse fire up to 12 floors of a high-rise building.

He said side by side modernising with equipment, the department needs to double its human resources to meet the present demand.

Amin also emphasised on ensuring modern fire fighting system inside the multi-storied buildings.

As per the Bangladesh National Building Code it is mandatory for installing own fire fighting system in high-rise buildings above seventh floors.

But, people hardly maintain such a system and care a little to follow the rules, said the sources attributing to lack of regular monitoring by the authorities concerned for this.

Amin said they are considering to start mobile court drives soon to monitor and ensure such a system.



Artists of Abhyyudoy Sangeet Angon perform songs at a function titled "Shonar Tomar Amritobani" at the Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) on Saturday.